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Resolved,

4. That in common with all the friends of religious liberty and just government, we rejoice, that persecuting laws, enacted at the era of the Revolution, in direct violation of the principles then asserted, and which, though too cruel and impolitic to be often enforced, have yet remained for a century the disgrace of the statute-book, are at length expunged, amidst a general acquiescence in the justice and even necessity of their repeal.

Resolved unanimously,

5. That our best acknowledgments are due to William Smith, Esq., M.P., for his compliance with the request, originating in our Committee, to bring the subject of the legal insecurity of Unitarians before Parliament, and for his unremitted attention to the Parliamentary progress of the Bills, which he accordingly brought into the House of Commons, for the repeal of those penal statutes which had so long rendered Unitarians liable to be deprived of civil protection, merely on the ground of their religious profession.

Resolved unanimously,

6. That we trust the period is advancing, and we would willingly hasten its arrival, when not only Christians of every description, but also our countrymen at large, shall be alike free to profess and defend their opinions, and all equally partake the civil rights of Britons.

Resolved unanimously,

7. That as Unitarian Christians feared not to profess and inculcate what they esteem the doctrines of the Gospel, though liable to the infliction of severe penalties, it is their incumbent duty, now that they are placed within the protection of the law, not to relax their efforts, but rather to extend those exertions which well consist with the peace and order of civil society, and the purest principles of Christian charity.

Resolved unanimously,

8. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Committee of the Unitarian Fund, for their zealous discharge of the trust committed to them, and for their watchfulness over the interests of the Unitarian Body.

Resolved unanimously,

9. That the above Resolutions be printed, and that a copy be sent to every member of the society within the reach of the twopenny-post.

Resolved unanimously,

10. That the Resolutions now passed,

be advertised in the Monthly Repository; a publication which, for the support it gives to the cause of free inquiry, and religious liberty, is entitled to the countenance of the Unitarian Body, and particularly of this Society.

Resolved unanimously,

11. That the above Resolutions be advertised also in the principal periodical publications, and the newspapers, at the discretion of the Committee.

SAMUEL GOODBEHERE, Chairman.

John Christie, Esq. having taken the Chair, it was resolved unanimously,

That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Mr. Alderman Goodbehere, for his conduct in the Chair; and for his general support of the rights and liberties of his fellow-citizens and fellow-countrymen of all denominations.

At a Meeting of Friends of Civil and Religious Liberty, and of Internal Peace and Concord, held in the Centre Room of the White Linen-Hall, in Belfast, August 16th, 1813.

DR. DRENNAN, in the Chair.

Resolved, That in the present crisis, when the outrageous proceedings of Orangemen threaten so alarmingly to disturb the peace of the country, Petitions to both houses of Parliament, praying for the suppression of Orange Societies, equally with all other illegal associations, ought to be immediately put forward.

Resolved, That a petition having been prepared, the same is adopted by this Meeting.

Resolved, That the Petitions be left for signature at William Tucker's Belfast, and that when they have been signed in this town, they shall be sent forward to other places in the neighbourhood.

Resolved, That a correspondence be immediately opened, to procure the co-operation of similar Petitions in more distant places, that a united effort may be made throughout the nation to facilitate the measure.

Resolved, That 100 copies of the Petition, and of these Resolutions, be printed, to be forwarded by the Secretary, in pursuance of the preceding Resolution. The Petitions may either be considered to answer as a model for general adoption, or in each town or district, alterations may be made to suit the opinions of the subscribers.

Resolved, That John Hancock of Lis-

burn, be appointed Secretary, and to him all letters on the subject are to be addressed.

Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary, together with Robert Tennent, Robert McDowell, William Tucker, and James Munfod, be a standing Committee to conduct the business of the Petitions, till they shall be finally presented to Parliament.

Resolved, That as unavoidable expenses will be incurred in the prosecution of this business, a subscription be immediately opened, to defray the charges attendant on the Petitions, and that Robert Tennent act as Treasurer.

Resolved, That as soon as the Petitions shall have been signed, they, with any others of a similar nature, and which the subscribers shall wish to have transmitted with them, be offered for presentation to the House of Lords by the Duke of Sussex, or the Earl of Donoughmore, and to the House of Commons by Sir Henry Parnell.

WILLIAM DRENNAN, Chairman.

*To the Right Honourable the House of Lords,
or to the Honourable the House of Commons,*
(as the case may be,)*

The Petition of the undersigned Protestants and Catholics of Ireland, the Friends of Civil and Religious Liberty, and of Internal Peace and Concord,
RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That Petitioners have long lamented the distracted state of this country, in which a Faction, calling themselves Orangemen, bound together by a secret, and as petitioners conceive, an illegal oath, have disturbed the peace by their riotous and tumultuous proceedings. They arrogate large claims for loyalty, of which they boast exclusive possession, but their conduct proves that many only make a shew

of it for interested purposes. To be truly loyal, is to be strictly obedient to the laws.

That their processions, decked with party insignia, and sometimes with military arms, on certain stated anniversaries, produce much irritation in the minds of those against whom the insulting show is chiefly directed; and more especially as they carefully exclude all Catholics from their Lodges: that these processions have a powerful effect in keeping up a spirit of animosity among neighbours, and perpetuating an organized system of hostility towards all who will not join with them; that they not only in their direct consequences have led to tumults, riots, and murders, on their parts, but also by their raising a spirit of opposition to their proceedings, other antagonist societies have arisen, by which the peace of the country is farther endangered: and thus, such irritating proceedings appear not remotely to portend the horrors of civil war, unless timely exertions are used to repress the meetings and processions of Orangemen.

That Petitioners conceive the laws already in force are fully sufficient for the purpose of suppressing all illegal associations; as there are already enactments against taking secret oaths, and appearing with the badges of a party, under which many of the peasantry are annually convicted, while Orangemen, because protected by persons in higher ranks of life, are permitted openly to act in a manner which in other cases of not greater enormity, would bring down the severe chastisement of the law on the less favoured and unprotected classes of the community.

That your Petitioners, emboldened by the discussions which took place in Parliament, near the close of last session, on the illegality of establishing Orange Societies in England, beg leave, in the most fervent and earnest manner, to entreat that Ireland may be equally placed with Great Britain, on a similar footing of security, in regard to the impartial administration of the laws, by the suppression of all illegal associations; and that your Petitioners may be secured in the possession of their lives and properties, which are evidently endangered while the proceedings of Orangemen are connived at, either by the executive government or its inferior officers.

In their present anxiety of mind, Petitioners utterly disclaim any appellation

* A Petition from each place, to the House of Lords, and another to the House of Commons, with the appropriate heading to each, will be necessary. The Petition, when adopted, either with, or without alterations, ought to be engrossed on a large skin of parchment, and columns ruled for signatures, both at the foot and on the back of the petition, with subdivisions for the names, occupations, and residence of the subscribers.